

ISAC Meeting – May 2012

ACTION OR INFORMATION ITEM

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Topic: Federal and Nongovernmental Approach to Preventing New Species Importations

Speaker: Susan Jewell (Susan_Jewell@fws.gov)

1. DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is looking at new ways to deal with the long list of wild animal species that could become seriously invasive in the United States. Our current process for listing a species as injurious under the Lacey Act is lengthy and expensive. By the time we list something as injurious, it is often too late. Now, too, the industries that trade in live animals are realizing that many of their trade species are becoming invasive problems. Do we have alternatives to listing that would be faster and accomplish what we need? FWS is collaborating on an agreement with the live animal trade industries to create a new way of preventing new species from entering the United States. We are working with the industries that trade in live, nonnative species on voluntary ways that they can prevent importation without affecting their commerce. These industries include pet, bait, aquaculture, food, and display. We are focusing on aquatic species that are not yet found in the United States but have shown a history of invasiveness in other countries and could survive in our climates. By using a newly developed risk-screening method, we can provide the industries with technical assistance so they can decide which species that they would voluntarily refrain from importing or to conduct mitigation. State conservation agencies can also use this information to aid with their management of potentially invasive species and to work with industry on their own agreements for regionally risky species. The risk-screening process will be explained and several examples of results will be shown.

2. WHY IS THIS ITEM IMPORTANT TO NISC / ISAC? HOW IS IT RELATED TO THE NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN?

NISC and ISAC provide reliable information and advice on invasive species to decision-makers. Presenting this information here informs the ISAC members of the availability of the risk-screening information that they can use to make decisions on species to trade. It could convince ISAC members who trade in live animals to consider signing on to the agreement. It directly relates to Strategic Goal 1 (Prevention) of the NISMP.

3. PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN BY NISC / ISAC ON THIS ITEM:

I don't know of any actions similar to this.

4. ACTION REQUESTED OF NISC / ISAC:

We request 30 minutes to present the nonregulatory process and answer questions. We would like to discuss how this concept is useful for other taxa, such as plants, that FWS cannot list as injurious.

5. ALTERNATIVES:

None..

6. ATTACHMENTS:

None.